

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 BIB-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /079 W

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R 171501Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9377

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, VN, VS

SUBJECT: SOVIET AID TO VIETNAM: PRESS COVERAGE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

REF: MOSCOW 5289

1. SUMMARY. THE SOVIET PRESS REPORTS THAT SOVIET "PRIVATE" ORGANIZATIONS WILL DONATE MATERIAL AID TO THE PEOPLE OF THE "LIBERATED" AREAS OF SOUTH VIETNAM. IN OTHER ITEMS, PRESIDENT FORD WAS MENTIONED WITHOUT HIS TITLE, SAIGON TROOPS WERE REPORTED AS CROSSING OVER, AND THE SOVIET-IRAQI COMMUNIQUE'S BLAST AT "IMPERIALIST FORCES" (REFTEL) WAS CONFIRMED BY THE RUSSIAN TEXT. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA (APRIL 17) REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT VIETNAM AND THE SOVIET PEACE FUND WOULD PROVIDE MATERIAL ASSISTANCE AS A GIFT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE  
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"LIBERATED" AREAS OF SOUTH VIETNAM. A SEPARATE ITEM

JUST ABOVE THAT ANNOUNCEMENT REPORTS THAT SOVIET VICE PREMIER ARKHIPOV RECEIVED THE DRV AND PRG AMBASSADORS ON APRIL 16 AT THEIR REQUEST.

3. COMMENT. THE BODIES PROVIDING THE AID ARE THEORETICALLY "UNOFFICIAL," BUT THE JUXTAPOSITION OF THE TWO ARTICLES SUGGESTS A CAUSAL CONNECTION. BY HANDLING THIS AID "PRIVATELY," THE QUESTION OF A FORMAL AGREEMENT DOES NOT ARISE. THE MOST RECENT SOVIET-PRG ACCORD WAS SIGNED ON DECEMBER 10, 1974. AS USUAL NO VALUE OR QUANTITY FIGURES WERE GIVEN.

4. IN ITS DAILY ROUND-UP OF VIETNAM STORIES, IZVESTIYA CARRIES AN TIEM FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT CALLED "PACKING THEIR BAGS" NOTING U.S. PRESS REPORTS OF THE IMPENDING COLLAPSE OF THE THIEU REGIME AND AN ALLEGED U.S. ORDER TO EVACUATE PEOPLE FROM SAIGON. THE ARTICLE ALSO MENTIONED WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESSIONAL DISCUSSION OF "FORD'S" PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL AID. THE OMISSION OF THE PRESIDENT'S TITLE IS UNUSUAL IN THE SOVIET PRESS. (WE WOULD NOT ATTRIBUTE UNDUE IMPORTANCE TO THIS, BUT IT BEARS WATCHING.)

5. REPORTING CONTINUED FIGHTING IN XUAN LOC, IZVESTIYA'S HANOI CORRESPONDENT IL'INSKIY SAYS THAT MANY SAIGON COMMANDERS REFUSE TO CARRY OUT ORDERS AND THAT SOME SEEK TO ARRANGE A CONDITIONAL SURRENDER. PRAVDA ALSO CARRIES A PHOTO OF SAIGON SOLDIERS WHO ALLEGEDLY CROSSED OVER. THIS THEME IS NOT NEW IN SOVIET MEDIA, BUT IT MAY GAIN MORE PROMINENCE AS THE NORTH VIETNAMSE ADVANCE CONTINUES.

6. THE RUSSIAN TEXT OF THE SOVIET-IRAQI COMMUNIQUE CONFIRMS THE ACCURACY OF THE ENGLISH EXCERPT (REFTEL) CONDEMNING THE ACTS OF "EXTERNAL IMPERIALIST FORCES" IN VIETNAM, BUT IT DOES NOT GO BEYOND IT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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